MR. CHAIRMAN: No point of order. In Question Hour, we don't make points of order. Question No. 81.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Track Renewal Programme in Andhra Pradesh

*81. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take up track renewal programme in Andhra Pradesh during the current year to replace old tracks with new one; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of track renewal are not maintained State-wise. However, these details are maintained railway-wise. The State of Andhra Pradesh is served by three railways namely, South Central, Southern and South Eastern Railways. During the year 2000-2001, rail renewal of 336 km., 172 km. and 756 km. and Sleeper renewal of 272 km., 174 km., and 687 km. have been planned on South Central, Southern and South Eastern Railways respectively.

SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Sir, the life of a railway track is only 20 years. About 1700 kms. of track on the South Central Railway needs renewal. I would like to know the length of old railway track in Andhra Pradesh that is to be replaced, after the stipulated 20 year period, during the current year. Secondly, what is the amount that we have spent on track renewal in Andhra Pradesh during the current year and what has been the Budget allocation therefor?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, the details of track renewal are not maintained State-wise. However, the details are maintained Railway Zone-wise. The State of Andhra Pradesh is served by three Railways, namely, the South Central, the South Eastern and the Southern Railway. During 2000-2001, track renewal of 336 kms., 172 kms. and 756 kms. and sleeper renewal of 272 kms., 174 kms. and 687 kms., have been planned in South Central, Southern and South Eastern Railways.

SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: My second supplementary is this. I would like to know the position of gauge conversion between Nizamabad and Adilabad Districts of South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh. How much amount has been allocated for this conversion and how many years will it take to complete the work?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you know, we have constraint of funds. We have given funds to that particular area about which the hon. Member has asked. I am not in a position to give you the exact time. But I am sure this project will be completed.

SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about replacement of old tracks by new tracks. Here, I am not asking for any funds or anything else. In Andhra Pradesh, there was a train from Puttapaparthi Dharmavaram to Secunderabad, but because of gauge conversion, this train was stopped. The gauge conversion work was completed one year back, but the train from Dharmavaram to Secunderabad has not been restored. I want to know as to why it has not been restored, even after the completion of the gauge conversion work.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Sir, I think the hon. Member knows that we require a certain certification from the Commissioner of Railway Safety...

SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: The gauge conversion work was over one year back. We have been writing to the General Manager, South Central Railway, for restoration of this train, but it has not been done so far.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Since it has not been cleared by them...

SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Please find out from the South Central Railway as to why it has not been restored so far. Instead of giving some other reply, I request the Minister to find out the actual position.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: If the hon. Member asks for a particular thing, I will do the needful.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Sir, my question is about the gauge conversion work which has taken place on the Guntur-Hyderabad-Goa section. Sir, all trains from other States to Goa have been restored, except these four trains from Andhra Pradesh. I want to know the reason for that.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Are you talking of a particular train?

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: No, no. You have restored all the trains to Goa, after the completion of the gauge conversion work, except the four trains from Andhra Pradesh. What is the reason?

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: The only reason is that the line is a congested one. We have to give some margin for goods trains also.

DR.Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Previously, there were four trains. Not a single train has been restored. At the same time, trains from other parts of the country have been restored. The question is not of congestion of line.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I know about this particular case. It has not been done because of certain congestion in that particular line. That is why it was not allowed. It is not only Andhra...

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: You are running trains from other places, but you have stopped the four trains which were running from Andhra Pradesh. What is the reason for that? Not a single train from Andhra Pradesh to Goa has been restored.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: I am giving this answer. There is

nothing against a particular State. It was not done because of certain congestion in that particular railway.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Sir, this very question relates to Andhra Pradesh, and the hon. Minister in his reply said that they have not maintained the State-wise position of track renewals. I would appeal to the Minister—they are capable of collecting the information—to collect the necessary information in respect of Andhra Pradesh from these three Railways, and place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said initially, Railways are not maintaining the State-wise position.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: But you can collect it.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: If the hon. Member is so keen, I will collect it and pass it on to him.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Yes; definitely. We are very keen to know the position about Andhra Pradesh.

Renovation of Shakkarnagar Railway Station

*82. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:†
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Master of the oldest railway station at Shakkarnagar in Andhra Pradesh is never available for hearing grievances of the commuters;

(b) if so, whether the matter would be enquired into; and

(c) the action taken to repair and renovate the station which is without any public amenities in working order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Ramachandraiah Rumandla.